

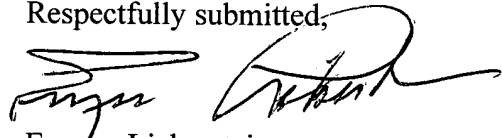
REMARKS

Applicant is filing this divisional application so that the cancelled claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of parent application serial number 09/622,518 filed August 17, 2000 may now be prosecuted.

The parent application serial number 09/622,518 was allowed on April 30, 2003 and the Issue Fee is due to be paid by July 30, 2003.

Applicant respectfully requests that this divisional application proceed to prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Lieberstein
Reg. No. 24,645

ANDERSON, KILL & OLICK
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1182
(212) 278-1000

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313, MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATIONS (DIV.) on July 18, 2003.



Date: July 18, 2003

CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

SUBSTITUTE CLAIMS 1-6

Claims for a divisional from US Application No. 09/622,518

1. A process for producing bis- β -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or a low condensate thereof from an aromatic polyester, comprising the steps of:

heating the aromatic polyester comprising terephthalic acid as a main dicarboxylic acid component and ethylene glycol as a main glycol component together with bis- β -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or a low condensate thereof containing no free ethylene glycol to pre-decompose the aromatic polyester; and then,

reacting the obtained pre-decomposed product with ethylene glycol in an amount of 1 part by weight of the pre-decomposed product and 3.0 to 10.0 parts by weight of ethylene glycol to convert the terephthalic acid component of the pre-decomposed product into bis- β -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or a low condensate thereof, wherein said low condensate is a compound containing ethylene terephthalate as the main constituent component and has an average polymerization degree of 1 to 10.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the pre-decomposition is carried out by heating the bis- β -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or low condensate thereof to melt.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the pre-decomposition is carried out at a temperature of 150 to 265 °C.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the pre-decomposition is carried out using 0.1 to 4.5 parts by weight of the bis- β -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or low condensate thereof based on 1 part by weight of the aromatic polyester.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein a reaction between the pre-decomposed product and ethylene glycol is carried out at a temperature of 190 to 265 °C.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction between the pre-decomposed product and ethylene glycol is carried out using 1 part by weight of the pre-decomposed product and 3.0 to 5.0 parts by weight of ethylene glycol.